

AGAWAM

Advertiser News

FEBRUARY 20, 2014

VOL. 35, NO. 50

\$1.00



Agawam Hockey . . . 12

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION

www.turley.com

Police seek suspect in road rage shooting

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Police are asking for the public's help in identifying an individual involved in an alleged road-rage incident that resulted in an Agawam man being shot last week.

According to Agawam Police Detective Lt. Richard Light, the incident occurred around midnight on Thursday, Feb. 13. The 27-year-old victim, who was not identified by police, suffered a gunshot wound to the abdomen during the incident.

Police said the victim and a

friend were driving along Springfield Street near O'Brien's Corner when they encountered a silver or gold Honda that sparked a road-rage incident. The Honda reportedly stopped in front of the victim's car near Maple and Bridge streets, at which time the victim stopped his car and got out, according to

police. The passenger of the Honda got out of his car with a small caliber revolver and fired two shots at the victim, one of which hit him in the stomach. The suspect then fled the scene, possibly heading to West Springfield. The victim was transported to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield where he was

treated and released.

Police described the suspect as a Hispanic male wearing a dark "hoodie" and a baseball cap. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Agawam Detective Bureau at (413) 786-1717.

Council to weigh deficit spending for snow removal

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam City Council will be asked to approve deficit spending for the snow and ice removal budget.

Mayor Richard Cohen reports the Feb. 13 storm that was widely considered a nor'easter has likely depleted the entire snow/ice budget in the fiscal year 2014 budget. Cohen submitted the request prior to the storm as it appeared as new business at the council's Feb. 3 meeting. The request is done almost yearly as snow/ice removal is a very unpredictable situation.

Cohen budgeted \$456,000 for FY2014. Prior to the Feb. 13 storm, there was only \$73,670.86 remaining. There are line items for overtime for Department of Public Works snowplow operators, equipment for snow removal in certain locations, and sand and salt to treat the roads.

There were no major issues along local roads during the Feb. 13 nor'easter that resulted in the cancellation of school and the closure of Agawam Town Hall. The storm dropped heavy snow during the middle of the day, which resulted in accumulations of approximately 10 inches locally.

The snow was followed by some sleet and freezing rain during the overnight hours, and the storm ended early Friday morning. Because of how close it was to the beginning of school, Superintendent William Sapelli opted to cancel school for a second day as most communities in the surrounding area did in order to allow plows and snow removal crews to clean up. Cohen said the DPW has been doing an excellent job this winter caring for the town.

"The DPW has been out there working tirelessly during numerous incidents," he said. "I commend them for their efforts."

The DPW has been very busy in Agawam during the past two weeks responding to numerous "plow-able events." There was a storm on Wednesday, Feb. 6, followed by the nor'easter on Feb. 13. About three inches of snow fell on Saturday, Feb. 15, though eastern sections of Massachusetts received the brunt of that storm. Snow

Please see SNOW, page 6

FROSTY FRIEND



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Jessie Reed, 9, hugs her new "bff" – best frosty friend – following a recent snowfall. Snowmen beware: Spring is just 28 days away.

Gaming grant to cover study fees

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The town has received a grant from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission for expenses related to studying the impact a casino would have on the town and negotiating a host agreement with MGM Springfield.

MGM Springfield is the lone remaining applicant for the one casino gaming license that will be issued in Western Massachusetts.

Agawam negotiated a host agreement where the town would receive a \$150,000 payment from MGM upfront, then \$125,000 a year for 15 years as payment for mitigation for the impact having a casino resort so close to the town. A new casino could presumably increase traffic through Agawam.

Mayor Richard Cohen formed a five-member Casino Mitigation Committee, headed by Town Clerk Richard Theroux, to look into the impact a casino would have on the town.

The committee was first charged with looking at the impact a Hard Rock Casino originally proposed for West Springfield would have on the town. Hard Rock International was seeking to place a casino resort on the grounds of the Big E, nearly adjacent to Agawam borders. The casino mitigation committee incurred approximately \$15,000 in legal and professional service bills studying

Please see GRANT, page 6

Desrosiers off to Post University Signs NLI with Division 2 school

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Tyler Desrosiers is a scoring machine.

On Sunday, he decided he will be bringing his machine to Division 2's Post University. Post is private school located about 60 miles away in the city of Waterbury, Conn.

Post will give Desrosiers a full scholarship and he intends to major in business management.

Desrosiers has been making

an impact on the Brownies since he became a sophomore year. While Agawam has struggled as a team to make the tournament, Desrosiers has shined. He has had some very high scoring games, going as high as 44 points on one occasion, and has even been responsible for half or more of Agawam's offense in a single game.

Desrosiers, for the year, has 512 points, and surpassed the 1,500-point plateau during an Agawam win over Ludlow on Feb. 6. In that game, Desrosiers collected a modest 28 points.

In 19 games in the 2013-2014 season, no team has been able to keep Desrosiers out of double digits. His lowest point total was 15 points on two occasions. He had his best average points per game for the season with 28.4 and is two shots away

Please see POST, page 14

Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam senior Tyler Desrosiers signed his National Letter of Intent to play basketball at Division 2 Pace University.



NEWEST ROTARY MEMBER



Turley Publications courtesy photo

George Bitzas, right, Agawam Rotary Club president, and Gina Letellier, left, incoming Rotary president, present a certificate of membership to Bill Pass, pastor of the Church of Redemption in Agawam.

Comedy fundraiser to benefit Agawam Lions

The Knights of Columbus, located at 460 Granby Road, Chicopee will host a comedy fundraiser Saturday, March 1 at 7 p.m., with proceeds to benefit the Agawam Lions Club. Featured performers for the event are Jody Sloane, Tom Hayes and Steve Guilmette. Tickets, which are \$20 per person, may be purchased at Bob's Barber Shop, 13 Maple St., Agawam, and Southgate Liquors on Suffield Street in Agawam or by calling Shawn Disley at (413) 687-0268 or Dick Lanier at (413) 335-5434. Doors open at 6 p.m. There will be a cash bar, raffles, light music and the performance will include mild adult themes.

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

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Agawam Advertiser

WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.



Turley Publications photo by Kimberly Hatch

This cardinal-covered mailbox fronts a home on a love-ly street in Agawam. Tell us, do you know where it is?

Last week's photo: Barbara Howard was the first person to correctly identify the Agawam Fire Department on Main Street.





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Agawam Advertiser News
Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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St. Pat's Committee to host fundraising dinner

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee will host a corned beef and cabbage dinner fundraiser, Wednesday, March 12, at 5 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. The public is invited to attend. Tickets are \$12 per person and the night's events will include a 50/50 raffle and Chinese raffle.

Anthony joins Park Square Realty

Ted Cassell, president of Park Square Realty, announced recently that Dale Anthony has joined Park Square Realty's Westfield office as a sales associate. He is a graduate of Northeastern University with a degree in business administration.

Anthony was employed in the sales and marketing department at a local newspaper for over 20 years and is currently the owner of Encore Home Maintenance and Improvements in Southampton.

Park Square Realty is a locally-owned residential real estate company with offices in Westfield and Feeding Hills and can be seen online at parksquarerealty.com.



Turley Publications courtesy photo
Dale Anthony

Resident attempts to restrain intruder

Alleged Feeding Hills burglar found in Monson woods

By Emily Thurlow
Staff Writer

MONSON – An arrest was made in Monson last Wednesday after a resident returned home to find an intruder attempting to make off with his belongings.

After leaving his house on Butler Road, one resident visited a friend, who also lived on the street, when he was startled after returning home on Wednesday, Feb. 12 to discover that someone was hiding in his shower. According to Monson Police Chief Stephen Kozloski, at this point, the 71-year-old neighbor to the victim placed a 9-1-1 call and reported that he and the victim were actively attempting to restrain the intruder that had broken into the residence, adding that the individual was being extremely combative.

Police arrived within three minutes of the initial call. But though Kozloski said the dispatcher reported there was still a connection on the phone line, communication from the caller had ceased and it was apparent that the intruder was able to fight his way out of the residence before police had arrived.

"Shortly thereafter, the subject was located in a wooded area about 100 yards away, hiding in the woods and was taken into custody," said Kozloski, adding that at the time of his arrest, the subject was armed with a knife.

Fortunately, the caller sustained no injuries and all of the property from the residence, which was primarily of cash and gold and silver coins, was recovered on the suspect's person or had been hidden near the scene.

The suspect was identified as 31-year-old Michael S. DiDonato of 79 Line St., Feeding Hills and was charged with armed breaking and entering in the daytime to commit a felony; larceny from a building; assault with the intent to commit a felony; assault and battery on a person over 65; and possession of heroin. At the time of arrest, Kozloski said that DiDonato was in possession of five bags of heroin, a drug which he has described as "an epidemic," in the area that is often linked to a number of crimes.

"An overwhelming number of suspects in the house break cases that we have solved have indicated that they were acting as a measure to fund a drug dependency problem," he said.

Coincidentally, he said that there are a large number of cases where the individual that's charged with possession of heroin or house breaks had prior charges, convictions or a history of marijuana possession as well as prescription medications on their record. Though it's not the same in every circumstance, many times, those with an addiction to prescription medications often graduate to heroin as it is less expensive.

During a recent encounter, Kozloski said that one subject had admitted to having a 30-bag a day habit to heroin. And for a habit that's street value is estimated between \$4 and \$10, with someone that isn't working a job, it's easy to see where people would turn for this upwards of \$300 a day habit.

"Many subjects that we encounter are very forthcoming about their addictions," he said. "A common discussion that we have with these subjects in the community is an overall concern for their addiction and while they may just be saying this [for our benefit], many say that they are having trouble accessing services."

And while many locals are under the impression that drug-related crimes are more of an occurrence in a "big city" like Springfield, many police departments in the area beg to differ.

"This is not just an urban problem, this is a small town problem," he said. "We have had two heroin overdoses in the last three to four weeks alone that our ambulance had to respond to for local residents. There are individuals however that are coming to pretty on the community to prey on that addiction."

Although the department utilizes the resources that they have, he explained there doesn't appear to be any "light at the end of the tunnel" as far as seeing the issue being ultimately stopped in its tracks. And between what could be a difficulty for individuals in obtaining rehabilitative services to stop using and/or a judicial system that could/should be enforcing some kind of rehabilitative service, it seems increasingly difficult for the cycle of drug usage and crimes related thereof to be broken.

"Our frustration appears to be the disposition of people on behalf of the defendants we deal with, with breaking the cycle of heroin," said Kozloski. "And as a result of that, it ultimately affects the quality of life for our residents here in Monson."

A representative from the Hampden County District Attorney's office could not be reached to respond to the issue.

One thing that Kozloski hopes will help with solving drug-related crimes in the future will be the pawn shop bylaw that was recently passed by the state. With the bylaw, pawn shops, dealers and collectors are required to hold precious metals for a 30-day period before they can be resold and requires the sellers of such pieces to show some type of government-issued identification to the shop in order to make a sale. Oftentimes, Kozloski said that those drug-related crimes are often linked to pawn shops as well.

As for DiDonato, he was held on bail and arraigned at the Palmer District Court last Thursday morning.

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THIS PAPER

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Agawam/Feeding Hills Properties Sold by Park Square Realty in 2013

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 25 Haskell Street, Agawam	 41 Logan Place, Feeding Hills	 30 Kathy Terrace, Feeding Hills	 15 Allison Lane, Feeding Hills	 36 Taft Street, Feeding Hills	 20 Princeton Ave, Feeding Hills	 533 Mill Street, Feeding Hills	 45 N. Westfield St, Feeding Hills
 57 Hastings St, Feeding Hills	 56 Emerson Road, Agawam	 25 Seymour Ave., Agawam	 10 Robin Lane, Feeding Hills	 94 Senator Ave, Agawam	 18 Anvil Street, Feeding Hills	 24 Campbell Drive, Agawam	 34 Corey Drive, Agawam
 89 Norris Street, Agawam	 30 Stanley Place, Agawam	 58 Sunset Terrace, Agawam	 37 Briarcliff Dr, Feeding Hills	 224 Mill Street, Agawam	 7 Marla Drive, Feeding Hills	 25 Barbara Lane, Feeding Hills	 8 Losito Lane, Agawam
 79 Cosgrove Ave, Agawam	 176 Barry St., Feeding Hills	 21 Castle Hill, Agawam	 6 Castle Hill Road, Agawam	 1E Mansion Woods, Agawam	 17B Castle Hill Rd, Agawam	 28 Castle Hill Rd, Agawam	 7 Beekman Place, Agawam

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Please see parksquarerealty.com for details.

Opinion

Do we really need a state climatologist?

Recently Governor Patrick announced he wants to spend \$52 million in state funding (taxpayers' dollars) in helping the towns combat climate change. That's \$40 million for cities and towns for green technology (or to protect the infrastructure from the weather by using green technology), \$10 million for coastal infrastructure and \$2 million for other projects (just what those projects are we don't know).

We're sorry but that's \$52 million that could be better spent elsewhere. Why can't we just fix up our infrastructure so it can handle nasty storms? Why do we have to label it "green?" What about our bridges like Huntington's Robert Cross Bridge (also known as the green bridge) which has had a major over haul but parts of it are still visibly crumbling?

What about lowering our taxes? Why can't we have some money for our schools? As we have seen with the Worthington withdrawal situation – the towns and taxpayers need more money – they don't need to have more of it taken away for politically correct feel good projects.

In Williamsburg, the selectboard keeps saying the "town's tax base is not growing" therefore the town (or any town for that matter) simply can't pay much more for higher wages for its own employees, never mind for the schools.

Plus the governor (using taxpayers' money) wants to hire a state climatologist.

What exactly is hiring a state climatologist going to do? Can he go out in a field like a shaman and shake a stick at the sky and tell the climate to stop changing? Don't we have any national climatologists around? What's NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) doing? They're the ones with the scientists and satellites (using taxpayer dollars). Why does Massachusetts need its own climatologist? Isn't this duplication of services?

This person is going to be stationed at UMass. at Amherst, and is probably going to get a six figure salary, have tons of vacation time, tons of benefits and retirement, and when there's an actual weather crisis, he



will be safe at home snug in his bed (maybe working on his laptop). He won't be up all night plowing in blinding blizzards like our highway crews do.

As for the weather or climate change – what can a climatologist do? He can't stop the climate from changing. Sure he can study it – but many think it's heating up anyway – so he will just tell us what we already know. Why pay money for that?

Although he might find ways to stifle business by making recommendations (in the name of climate change) that will create more expensive regulations which will

increase the cost of doing business – this in turn will cause layoffs.

As for the weather, we already know what the weather is going to be like. We have three to four local news channels with meteorologists, three or four national news channels with meteorologists, tons of websites that will tell us about the local, national and global weather (and climate change). This editor even has two hand cranked emergency radios with the NOAA's 24 hour weather forecasts on them. She would happily take a six figure salary to tell you what the weather is going to be.

Plus, we know it's impossible to truly predict the weather because it changes faster than anyone can predict. We're in New England after all – wait a minute and it will change.

Of course, if we're all afraid of dying by climate change – what happens if we get hit by an earthquake or asteroid or a nasty disease? Does this mean we now have to hire a state seismologist, an astronomer and a disease specialist? Oops, better not give them any ideas.

Letter to the Editor

Many to thank for comedy show success

To the editor:

On behalf of the Agawam Dog Owners Group, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in helping make our first-ever comedy show a tremendous success. Together, with your help, we were able to raise over \$4,000 to help further the Agawam Dog Park project.

wam Dog Park project.

There are many people and businesses to thank for the awesome evening of entertainment and raffle donations. First, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who worked so hard to put together a fantastic, and hopefully annual, event. Your dedication and efforts have helped ADOG be a successful civic organization in the town of Agawam.

Second, many thanks to Dave Rattigan, of Scamps Comedy Productions,

for producing a great lineup of talent and very funny comedians. Third, a special thank you to all of the area businesses and people who generously donated items for our raffle, including Agawam Bowl, Agawam Municipal Golf Club, Anna's Dry Cleaning, Bark at the Moon Photography, Cooper's Curtains and Gifts, Dave's Soda and Pet City, Eastern States Exposition, E.B.'s Restaurant, F.L. Roberts, Fitness First, Great to be Home Pet Care, Hong

Please see LETTER, page 5

2014 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy combined together in a special issue four weeks out from a primary or general election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details 5-6 weeks before the election. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy after that special election coverage issue. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our Advertising Representative at John Baskin at 786-7747 or jlbaskin@

turley.com. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per candidate during the election season. They may be sent to aan@turley.com. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

As a hometown newspaper, state, county and federal candidates in con-

tested races who reside privately in our main coverage town(s) are offered one staff written feature story at the time of their official announcement appearing at least two months before the election date. However, these same hometown candidates aren't allowed to submit a separate candidate statement or listing in our special election edition. If a state or federal candidate living in our direct coverage town(s) is running in an uncontested race, no feature story interview will be granted. That information will be included in the general story that runs the week before the election. That story contains general information, including the names of all the candidates who will appear on the ballots and polling information.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

AGAWAM

The Agawam Advertiser News (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand \$1.00

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is published by
Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

Where were you in 1955?

The Agawam News in 1955 was typically a nickel per copy, but the June 16th edition was many times larger and on sale for a quarter. Called the Special Centennial Edition, the issue is now a collectible for those who like Agawam history. The front page had a map of Agawam showing the locations of important places. The map is nearly useless now. The three fire stations no longer exist, the library is in a different place and so is the police station. Churches have moved or changed their names. A lot has happened since 1955. Looking in the mirror reminds me every day.

Agawam's history was summarized in the next two pages. You could read that the town had 1,543 people in 1855. Mrs. DeForge, the editor, extends her best wishes to the town's 13,000 residents. Down the bottom of the page are ads for the Agawam Men's Shop at 381 Walnut St., Bill's Cockshutt Farm at 949 Springfield St. and the Silver Star Restaurant on 15 King St., owned by Dan and Jake Tomasetti. You could call them at RE 4-9782. Dan Pisano had an ad for his oil company on page 5 right near the ad for the Aga-Mart Taxi Co. whose phone number was ST 8-6701.

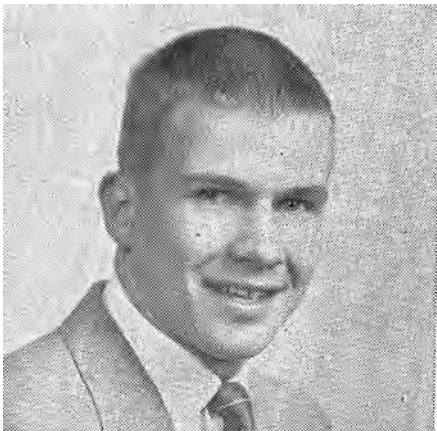
The article about Industry and Business Growth had a couple of paragraphs about the new Agawam Shopping Center listing

these stores and professionals: The Agawam Mart (supermarket) "which is expanding"; Jasmin's Drug Store; Dr. Richard McCormick (dentist); Dr. Simon J. Ramah (physician); Dr. Richard Rabinowitz; Dr. Michael Nabeska; Michelman's Family Clothing Store; Springfield National Bank; William T. Walsh (lawyer). Nearby on Walnut Street in the Shopping Mart were Lou's Family Shoes, Dr. Paul Query, Samby's Children Shoppe, Fashion Fair Women's Apparel, McGuire's Steak House, D&H Delicatessen and a branch office of the Insulation Company of West Hartford. We definitely had more clothing stores in 1955.

The article goes on to describe the town as fast growing and pulsating, having three hardware dealers, four variety stores, a dozen grocers, three bakeries, 26 cafes and restaurants. What would the 2014 numbers be? Mrs. Mary E. Brady was the postmaster in Agawam Center, following in the footsteps of Miss Minnie Barden. Her carriers were Robert DeForge, Brendon Cloran, Lawrence DeForge, Richard Scannell, Edward Bissell, Daniel O'Connell and Thomas Danford. The clerks were George Casiello, Mrs. Virginia Chapman, Mrs. Jean Penna and Mrs. Shirley Goss. The postmaster in Feeding Hills was James Cleary. Arthur Kerr and William Chiba were carriers

YESTERDAY'S
HOMETOWN
NEWS

WALT WILLARD
ADVERTISER NEWS COLUMNIST



Robert August

and the clerks were Mrs. James Cleary and Mrs. Betty Waniewski.

Below the Post Office article was an ad that stirred a few memories. Riverside was offering jalopy races on Tuesdays, bargain matinees on Wednesdays, fireworks on Thursdays, midget races on Fridays, stock car races on Saturdays and movie and TV stars on Sundays. Progress sure is great. Next to the Riverside ad is an ad for Stacy Machine Works. It doesn't mention that in 59 years, all the machines will be gone, replaced by a flea market. On page 7, the River View Market offered block chuck for 39 cents a pound, two cans of cream corn for 25 cents, cake mix for 29 cents and six rolls of Scott's toilet tissue for 67 cents, and you could get free delivery. Might be a good idea if you have an emergency.



Marilyn Wilson

The seven finalists for Centennial Queen were pictured in the edition. They were Carol Arnold, Marilyn Draghetti, Nancy Kibbe, Carol Pallo, Marilyn Wilson, Gail Tootill and Joyce Ann Mercadante. Marilyn Wilson was crowned the queen at the Centennial Ball at Agawam High on Thursday, June 16, with Al Strohman's Orchestra supplying the music. Marilyn is married to Robert August '53. She attends her class reunions and was at last year's Big Huddle.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.

LETTER, from page 4

Kong Express, Ice Cream Shoppe, Kaptain Jimmy's, King Ward Coach Lines, Long Carpet Cleaning, Memo's Restaurant and Catering, Nina's Cookies, Nicky's Pizza, Oakridge Golf Club, Parthenon Pizzeria and Restaurant, Pride Stores, Samuel's Sports Bar, Sarat Ford, Shear Techniques, Sophia's Nail Care, Southgate Liquors, Stick Time Sports, Stop and Shop, Top Knotch Tree Service, and Westfield Bank, and anonymous donors. Your donation is extremely appreciated.

Most of all, I'd like to thank all those who attended the show. Your presence and participation that evening made for an incredibly successful night.

ADOG continues to support the town's vision of establishing an off-leash recreational area (OLRA). The design phase has begun and all are invited to participate in the process by attending public meetings. Thank you for helping us get closer to realizing that dream.

Deborah Sanchez, president
Agawam Dog Owners Group

'Making Strides Against Breast Cancer' event scheduled

REGION – The American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer will take place Sunday, Oct. 5, at Stanley Park in Westfield. Volunteers interested in serving on the planning committee are needed now. Join other area residents to help organize this fun and meaningful event. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is a noncompetitive, three-mile walk that unites hundreds of women, men and children in the community to raise funds and awareness to fight breast cancer while offering hope to all people facing the disease.

The event will unite the community to honor and celebrate breast cancer survivors, educate women about the importance of prevention and early detection, raise funds for the fight to end breast cancer, and commemorate more than two decades of making a difference in the fight to end breast cancer.

For more information, go to www.makingstrideswalk.org/ springfieldma or call Angel Davis, American Cancer Society community executive, at (413) 493-2126 or angel.davis@cancer.org.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering, and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service. For more information anytime, call toll free 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

Registration open for sign language program

LONGMEADOW – The Center for the Study and Use of Total Communication at the Willie Ross School for the Deaf announces its Spring 2014 Sign Language Program. The spring term will begin Feb. 25 and will continue through June 3.

Classes at the Willie Ross School's Longmeadow campus are offered at beginner, advanced beginner, intermediate and advanced conversation levels in simultaneous voice and sign. Classes are held Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for 14 weeks. Registration is accepted by mail, online or in person on Feb. 25 from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

For a registration form or more information, call the school at 567-0374 (V/TDD) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration forms are also available at www.willierossschool.org or on Facebook.

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Free cash approved for golf carts

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

AGAWAM – The City Council last week approved spending \$300,000 in free cash to purchase 66 new golf carts for the Agawam Municipal Golf Course for the upcoming golf season.

The expenditure received a lot of support from the Agawam Golf Commission. Members of the commission all spoke during the public comment portion of the council’s Feb.10 meeting. The Agawam Municipal Golf Course was heading into a 2014 season with a depleting supply of working golf carts. The carts are well past their life expectancy and the commission had no choice but to seek the funding from the town to get the new carts. Normally, the golf course is a self-sustaining enterprise in the town.

An amendment was added to the resolution stipulating that the \$300,000 must be repaid to the town’s general fund within 10 years. Essentially, the town’s general fund will be loaning the golf course money to purchase the new carts. City Council Vice President Dennis Perry asked that the city auditor keep track of the repayment to ensure it is down properly over time.

According to a letter addressed to Mayor Richard Cohen, the golf course operated in 2013 with 25 golf carts not functioning.

Robert Rifcon of Sherwood Drive, a past president of the Golf Association, said he frequents the golf course and has noticed over time that several golfers have opted not to return to the course because of bad experiences with golf carts.

“There’s nothing more irritating than people rushing you at the end of your round because they need your carts to start,” said

Rifcon. “A new fleet of carts would bring more golfers to the course, and thus bring in more money.”

Golf Commissioner Dan Michael pleaded with the council to support the \$300,000 request.

“I have seen the growth of the course in the past few years,” said Michael. “But to have people leave after a few holes because the carts break down is not good.

According to Tony Roberto, the general manager of the course, the course lost an estimated \$53,312 in business this year because of having to stagger tee times due to limited carts. The course also had to incur costs for renting carts on busier weekends to keep the course operating.

Councilor James Cichetti supported spending the money. While there were questions over why the golf enterprise could not afford the carts, he said the town needed to support the course.

“I am an avid golfer and I have seen the course grow through leaps and bounds,” said Cichetti. “Sometimes you need to invest to get a return.”

Councilor Gina Letellier proposed the repayment amendment. It was recommended by the Finance Committee and supported by the council as a whole. The \$300,000 will include a full maintenance package for the carts, including a certified cart mechanic to maintain the carts on a weekly basis. Councilor George Bitzas said he felt the new carts were a step in the right direction for the course.

Council President Christopher Johnson cast the only dissenting vote in the 10-1 approval. He said he could not support the spending because he was not provided enough information about the financial condition of the golf course.

“Sometimes you need to invest to get a return.”

City Councilman
James Cichetti

Gaming grant to cover study fees

GRANT, from page 1

the impact of the proposed West Springfield casino. West Springfield voters killed the proposal by voting it down in a referendum question last September.

Cohen then sent his committee to work with the town to negotiate a host agreement with MGM, which had their casino proposal approved by Springfield voters. Agawam was one of the first towns to announce their agreement with MGM.

The town still does not have a position on the casino.

“Right now, the town does not have a legal say in what happens with the casinos,” said Cohen. “However, I made it very clear that if a casino is approved, I want to the town to receive mitigation payments for it.”

Since working out the host agreement with MGM, the Casino Mitigation Committee has been dormant. Cohen says there is nothing for them to do right now, but he is not disbanding the committee because he

may need to bring them back in the future to help out with other aspects.

“As a part of our host agreement with MGM, we have a one-year and a five-year look-back on the impact of these casinos,” said Cohen. “I would anticipate I may need to utilize the committee again. They have done an excellent job looking out for the town’s interests with this issue.”

The Agawam City Council will have to approve the acceptance of the reimbursements from the Gaming Commission because they were disbursed in the form of grants. Casino applicants had to pay \$450,000 to apply for a gaming license. Money from those application fees were used to reimburse towns for their legal fees.

Agawam will be receiving a \$70,000 grant and will pay for their legal fees, which included the use of the firm Bacon & Wilson, once the grant is accepted by the city council. The city council’s Feb. 18 meeting was cancelled due to snow. They are scheduled to meet again on March 3.

Council to weigh spending for snow removal

SNOW, from page 1

then fell again on Feb. 18. School is not in session this week because of February vacation, but Tuesday night’s city council meeting was cancelled as a result of more snow.

Snow made it difficult for Agawam firefighters to respond to a fire on Southwick Street in Feeding Hills last Saturday morning.

The fire began around 10:30 a.m. and caused the closure of a steep hill that connects Southwick and Agawam on Route 57

for a few hours. The fire destroyed a large garage and caused approximately \$240,000 worth of damage. Because the house was on such a steep incline and there were large accumulations of snow and ice, firefighters had a hard time putting out the flames.

An adjacent house did not suffer any damage and firefighters were credited with keeping the flames at bay. The state fire marshal was called in to investigate the fire. The investigation is ongoing. There were no injuries reported.

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Legal Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT January 22, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, March 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.** for all parties interested in the appeal of Dragon Paradise, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-7 of the Town of Agawam’s Zoning Ordinances to allow for the creation of additional businesses located at the premises identified as 270 Main Street.

Doreen Prouty, Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
2/20,2/27/14

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT

PROBATE & FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT Hampden Division Docket No. HD14P0134PO

To all persons interested in the estate of **Frances Wright** of Agawam, in the County of Hampden.

A petition has been presented to said Court praying that this Court affirm the Health Care Proxy of **Jody WrightBrady**, dated November 9, 2012, all as more fully set forth in said petition.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this Court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of March 3, 2014. This day is not a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice

to you. In addition, you must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days of the return date.
Date: February 3, 2014

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
2/20/14

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD13C0189CA
In the matter of:
Melissa Ann Harrington
Of: Agawam, MA
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

To all persons interested in petition described:

A petition has been presented by **Melissa A Harrington** requesting that: **Melissa Ann Harrington** be allowed to change his/her/ their name as follows:

Melissa Ann Grechka
If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at: Springfield on or before ten o’clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 02/28/2014
WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 31, 2014

Suzanne T Seguin
Register of Probate
2/20/14

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD14P0218EA
Estate of:
Margaret A McCarthy
Date of Death: 12/23/2013
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL**

ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Thomas P Keenan** of Westfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that: **Thomas P Keenan** of Westfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 03/06/2014

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a

timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 06, 2014

Suzanne T Seguin
Register of Probate
2/20/14

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All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Families

New members welcome at garden club meeting

The Agawam Garden Club will hold its next meeting Tuesday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at the Pheasant Hill Village Community Room, 25 Pheasant Hill Drive, Feeding Hills. The club will kick off its 80th year with the introduction of officers and members. The meeting will also include, ‘bring something – take something,’ the trading of useful garden-related items. An 80th birthday cake and beverages will be served.

New members are welcome. Dues are \$15 per year, \$5 for those over 80.

‘AuthorTalk’ at the Agawam Public Library

Kate Anderson, author of “Hidden Histories~Behind the Walls Vol. II,” will visit the Agawam Public Library as part of the ‘AuthorTalk’ series, Tuesday, March 4, at 7 p.m. Anderson is an Agawam native and graduate of Elms College. She is a special education teacher and mental health historian, specializing in the history of institutions for the insane and developmentally disabled.

A photographic and textual history of the asylums and state schools of New England, including both Northampton State Hospital and Belchertown State School, the book features interviews with former staff, patients and professionals, creating a personal aspect in this sequel to “Behind the Walls.”

Alice Plouchard Stelzer, author of “Female Adventurers,” will visit the library Saturday, March 8, at 2 p.m. The public is invited to take part in celebrating Women’s History Month with Stelzer as she reads from and discusses her book, which highlights the women who helped colonize Massachusetts and Connecticut. This book profiles a dozen unsung heroes who represent all of the courageous women who left comfort behind and migrated into the wilderness of New England in the 1630s.

To register for these events, call the library at 789-1550, ext. 4, or visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Books will be available for purchase at both events.

Area moms invited to upcoming event

The Agawam Family & Community Program will host a night with the authors from the popular book, “Just Ordinary Moms,” Friday, Feb. 28, from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center.

The authors will read excerpts, sharing stories and offering encouragement to local moms. Several copies of this book have been purchased and will be passed out during the night. Additional books will be made available for purchase.

All moms, regardless of the ages of their children, are invited. Registration, which is not required but appreciated, is available at (413) 821-0597 or by email at mconnery@agawampublicschools.org. Free refreshments will be provided.

Celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday at the Springfield Museums

SPRINGFIELD – On Saturday, March 1, the Springfield Museums will host their annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Theodor Seuss Geisel was born in Springfield March 2, 1904, and the Museums pay tribute to his legacy each year with a day full of family activities, performances, and an appearance by the Cat in the Hat himself.

The celebration, one of the most popular of the Museums’ annual events, is part of the Family Fun series, which is supported by the TD Charitable Foundation. Activities are free with museum admission unless otherwise noted. For performance times and descriptions, or more information, call 413-263-6800 ext. 488 or visit www.springfieldmuseums.org.

The Springfield Museums are located on the Quadrangle at 21 Edwards St. in downtown Springfield. Hours at all four museums are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and college students, \$8 for children 3-17, and free for children under three and museum members. The fee provides admission to all Springfield Museums and the Dr. Seuss Sculpture Garden. Secure free onsite parking is available in the Edwards Street parking lots.

SHEA COMPLETES BASIC TRAINING



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Airman Jonathan M. Shea

Air Force Airman Jonathan M. Shea graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Shea, the son of Christine and Pat Shea, of Feeding Hills, is a 2013 graduate of Agawam High School.

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Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement- Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.

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*National Newspaper Association Reader Survey

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 63 EMS calls and 24 fire and other emergency response calls for the week from Feb. 11 to Feb. 17.

On Feb. 11 at 3:39 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street to assist invalid.

On Feb. 11 at 4:57 p.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for smoke or odor removal.

On Feb. 12 at 6:38 a.m., the department responded to Carr Avenue for water or steam leak.

On Feb. 12 at 8:57 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for smoke detector activation, no fire, unintentional.

On Feb. 12 at 1:11 p.m., the department responded to Castle Hills Road for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Feb. 12 at 4:10 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for a person in distress, other.

On Feb. 12 at 4:39 p.m., the department responded to Mansion Woods Drive to assist police or other governmental agency.

On Feb. 12 at 6:54 p.m., the department responded to James Street for cooking fire, confined to container.

On Feb. 12 at 10:11 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for a lock-out.

On Feb. 13 at 12:18 a.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for a lock-out.

On Feb. 13 at 9:20 a.m., the department responded to Rhodes Avenue for public service.

On Feb. 14 at 11:28 a.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for public service.

On Feb. 14 at 2:32 p.m., the department responded to Rosie Lane for passenger vehicle fire.

On Feb. 14 at 2:45 p.m., the department responded to North Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Feb. 14 at 6:52 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street to assist police or other governmental agency.

On Feb. 14 at 7:10 p.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street for service call, other.

On Feb. 15 at 10:41 a.m., the department responded to Southwick Street for a building fire.

On Feb. 15 at 12 noon, the department responded to Springfield Street for a gas leak, natural gas or LPG.

On Feb. 15 at 3:59 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Feb. 15 at 8:26 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street but was canceled en route.

On Feb. 16 at 10:21 a.m., the department responded to Reed Street for special type of incident, other.

On Feb. 16 at 11:07 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for sprinkler activation due to malfunction.

On Feb. 17 at 10:10 a.m., the department responded to Albert Street to assist invalid.

On Feb. 17 at 11:45 a.m., the department responded to Westview Lane for service call, other.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 294 calls for service from Feb. 11 to Feb. 17. The department made seven arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Feb. 11

Gabrielle O. Duval, 24, of 81 Cherry St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Raymond Bowlding, 50, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 7, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of domestic assault and battery.

Albert A. Ceccarini, 64, of 18 South St., Agawam, was arrested on a default warrant, failure to appear.

Thursday, Feb. 13

Jesse R. Hartman, 36, of 143 Autumn St., Agawam, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, vandalize property – defacement of real or personal property, and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Saturday, Feb. 15

Thomas J. Matroni, 21, of 819 Southwest St., Feeding Hills, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of alcohol, speeding, marked lanes violation, operation of a motor vehicle to endanger based on negligence, and failure to stop at a red light.

Monday, Feb. 17

Joshua Tourville, 25, of 69 Strawberry Hill, Feeding Hills, was arrested on a charge of domestic assault and battery.

Karie Ann Newsome, 46, of 28 Sheri Lane, Agawam, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and possession of a Class E drug.

Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, Feb. 24: Friends Trip to Mohegan Sun; 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:30 a.m., Painting Club, Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo, Meditation Seminar (Garden Room); 4 p.m., Tap Class; 5 p.m., Zumba.

Tuesday, Feb. 25: 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting, Sewing; 10 a.m., Computer Club Meets, PACE; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie (“Move Over, Darling”); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, Feb. 26: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble, Ballroom Lessons; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 1 Meeting; 5 p.m., Zumba.

Thursday, Feb. 27: 8 a.m.-Noon, Tax Prep. (by appt.); 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Open Art Class, Free Blood Pressure Check; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6 p.m., Genealogy Computer Class; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.

Friday, Feb. 28: 9:15 a.m., Oil Painting; 10 a.m., Tai Chi; 11:15 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Zumba.

Lunch menu

Monday, Feb. 24: Sliced beef w/mushrooms in brown burgundy sauce over egg noodles, peas and carrots, pears.

Tuesday, Feb. 25: Cream of broccoli soup, spinach salad topped with grilled chicken, pudding.

Wednesday, Feb. 26: Homemade stuffed peppers, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, baked good.

Thursday, Feb. 27: Onion soup, open-faced turkey sandwich, cranberry sauce, gravy, broccoli, carrot and cauliflower medley, peaches.

Friday, Feb. 28: Crabmeat quiche, orzo salad with marinated fresh vegetables, mixed fruit.

Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

The Agawam Senior Center Chorus will resume Tuesday afternoon singing sessions in March. The group meets after the movie, which is usually between 2:15 and 2:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. The chorus does not include a lot of “part singing.” Everyone is welcome to join in on the melody as well as improvised harmony, for those who can do that.

The chorus will be preparing for the second Irving Berlin concert in May. A concert of his early songs was performed last year and this year, songs from “Annie Get Your Gun,” “This Is the Army,” “Call Me Madam” and “Mr. President,” along with some songs from various movies, will be on the program.

‘My Life, My Health,’ free, open to the public

AGAWAM – Greater Springfield Senior Services will host “My Life, My Health,” a six-week program open free to the public, Mondays, March 10 through April 14, at the Agawam Senior Center. Designed for anyone with an ongoing medical condition, such as arthritis, cancer, chronic fatigue syndrome, Parkinson’s disease, COPD, stroke, and more, and caregivers, the focus of the workshop is to help participants manage chronic disease with group support.

Topics will include eating well, controlling pain, exercise, fatigue and frustration, stress, how to increase energy levels, solving problems and meeting personal goals, and communicating effectively with healthcare providers.

To register, call Joan Linnehan at 821-0605, ext. 1, or email jlinnehan@agawam.ma.us.

For more information on other Healthy Aging programs, call (413) 781-8800.

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In the Classroom

Agawam Schools' weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

**AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL**

Monday, Feb. 24: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Feb. 25: Mini pancakes with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, applesauce, orange juice.

Wednesday, Feb. 26: Chicken alfredo with penne pasta, garlic roll, broccoli, fresh fruit, dessert.

Thursday, Feb. 27: Stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 28: Spicy chicken patty on a roll with condiments, Cape Cod chips, three-bean salad, fresh and chilled fruit.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

Monday, Feb. 24: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Feb. 25: Mini pancakes with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, applesauce, orange juice.

Wednesday, Feb. 26: Buttered noodles with meat sauce, French breadstick, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Feb. 27: Stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 28: Manager's choice.

**AGAWAM ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS**

Monday, Feb. 24: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Feb. 25: Mini pancakes with syrup, baked potato rounds, sausage links, applesauce, orange juice.

Wednesday, Feb. 26: Buttered noodles with meat sauce, French breadstick, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Feb. 27: Stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 28: Manager's choice.

Regular School Committee meeting agenda

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main St.

Tuesday, Feb. 25 – 7 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence
3. Roll Call of Attendance
4. Regular Meeting – 7 p.m.
5. Citizen’s Speak Time:
6. Highlights on Education:
 - a. Presentation of citation to AHS student Madeline Provost
 - b. AJHS Peer Mediation Group – Jennifer MacDonald, Advisor
7. Superintendent’s Notes
8. Student Advisory Committee representative update
9. Unfinished Business:
 - a. SCR-14-05, Approval of Six Flags New England Scholarship
10. Business Meeting:

- a. Routine Matters
 - 1) Approval of Minutes
 - 2) Calendar/Correspondence
- b. Warrants/Transfers
- c. Reports:
 - 1). Scheduled Reports:
 - Personnel Update (paper report)
 - School Choice (paper report)
 - Financial Update – R. Clickstein
 - 2). Subcommittee Updates
11. New Business:
 - a. SCR-14-06, Approval of use of AHS auditorium by The Mary Ann Studio of Dance for recital on June 19 and June 20, 2014
 - b. SCR-14-07, Approval of job description for food service director
12. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
13. Executive session – (Contract Negotiations – Grievance)
14. Adjournment

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Campus Notes...

Clark University: Mary I. Molloy and Emma G. Philips, of Agawam, were named to the fall semester dean's list.

Holyoke Community College: The following area students were named to the fall semester dean's list. Liya I. Bazukina, Janice Beach, Emily S. Bertera, Kayla E. Bonafilia, Samantha L. Butt, Gina M. Carestia, John B. Conway, Allison L. Crowley, Virginia E. Danyow, Il'ya V. Demka, Zakhar V. Demka, Andrew J. Drozdal, Troy C. Geoffroy, Abbra R. Godbout, Andrea J. Graziano, Dina K. Kamburova, Jinhong Ma, Kwabena A. Minta-Boamah, Olesya Moskvivskiy.

Brianna M. Paine, Karisa L. Racette, Jessica L. Robertson, Lauren K. Sotolotto, Chi Yeung Wong, and Alyssa R. Ziemba, of Agawam; and Oleg Abramchuk, Samantha R. Alfano, Thomas J. Bertrand, Michael A. Coache, Robert A. Collins-LaPointe, Erin J. Hand, Dwight J. Koulgeorge, Sarah A. LaPointe, Gregory J. Lemieux, Sarah R. Liard, William T. Marshall, Troy W. Martins, Kristen L. Moriarty, Kendrick C. O'Connor, John C. Pietroniro, Rosemarie Russo, McKenzie E. Stuetzel, and Ashley C. Tebaldi, of Feeding Hills.



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***\$50 will be credited to the account after five ESB online bill payments have been posted to the account and online eStatements are activated (both must occur within 60 days of account opening). If achieved, this \$50 Bonus will be paid into the account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 60th day the account has been open.

****\$50 will be credited to the account if it remains open for at least 365 days. If achieved, this \$50 Bonus will be paid into the account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 365th day the account has been open.

Obituaries & Church News

DEATH NOTICES & SERVICES

Brown, Ronald
Died Feb. 14, 2014
Funeral Feb. 20, 2014
Agawam Curran-Jones
Funeral Home

Holland, Beth C.
Died Feb. 7, 2014
Memorial Mass TBA
Colonial Forastiere
Funeral Home
Agawam

Drive-thru blessings on Ash Wednesday

The Agawam United Methodist Church, located at 459 Mill St., Feeding Hills (opposite the playing fields of Agawam High School) will offer a drive-thru Ash Wednesday blessing for all those who are either too busy or otherwise hesitant to come inside the church.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent, which concludes after 40 days with the celebration of Easter Sunday. Pastor Ken Blanchard will offer ashes for people of any and all Christian denominations Wednesday, March 5, at three convenient times: 7-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. at the circular driveway in front of the church. In addition to anointing foreheads with ashes, the blessing will include a scripture reading and a brief prayer.

In addition to offering the blessing to people throughout the community, the pastor is hoping the drive-thru aspect will make it attractive for people with limited mobility or other health issues. It is the first time such an approach is being offered by the Agawam United Methodist Church, and it will be offered instead of a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service inside the building. If successful, it will become an annual event. For more information about the church, visit www.agawamworship.org.

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Int'l. language specialist's org.
6. Filament container
10. Amounts of time
14. Double curves
15. Clumsiness
17. Incapable of compromise
19. Mekong River people
20. Chinese broadsword
21. Rescue squad
22. Cablegram (abbr.)
23. Mold-ripened French cheese
25. Don't know when yet
27. Rivulet
30. Wild Himalayan goat
32. Astronaut's OJ
33. Scientific workplace
35. Xenophane's colony
36. Exchange
38. Semitic fertility god

39. Chit
40. Sylvia Fine's spouse Danny
41. Sole
42. Benne plant
44. Small amount
45. Sodas
46. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. UC Berkeley
49. Express pleasure
50. ___ Paulo, city
53. History channel's #5 show
59. Divertimento
60. Ridge on Doric column
61. Pastries
62. The "It" Girl
63. Hand drum of No. India

CLUES DOWN
1. Labor
2. North-central Indian city
3. About aviation
4. The sheltered side
5. Salem State College
6. Twofold
7. Unusually (Scot.)
8. Floral garland
9. Birthpact (abbr.)
10. Tooth covering
11. Confederate soldiers
12. Signing
13. Point midway between S and SE
16. Ground where each golf hole begins
18. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms
22. Atomic #73
23. Thin wire nail
24. Ancient Germanic alphabet character
25. Jupiter's 4th satellite
26. Woman's undergarment
28. African antelope
29. Afrikaans
30. Vietnamese offensive
31. Expression of sorrow or pity
32. Scot word for toe
34. Journalist Nellie
36. Compress
37. Whiskies
38. Feathery scarf
40. White clay for porcelain
43. Keeps in reserve
44. Infectious lung disease
46. Draws off
47. Chinese chess piece
48. Parrot's nostril opening
49. Once more
50. One from Serbia
51. Fleshy, bright seed appendage
52. Plural of os
53. The horned viper
54. Japanese apricot tree
55. Taxi
56. Bustle
57. Feline
58. Malaysian Isthmus

Answers on page 8

CHURCH DIRECTOR

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
745 Main St., Agawam
786-7111
Interim Pastor: Rev. Tom Howells
Agawam1@verizon.net
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.
Communion on the first Sunday of the month
Church school is in session and fellowship coffee hour follows the service.
"A place to call home ~ A people to call family"

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
459 Mill St., Feeding Hills
413-786-4174
Pastor: Ken Blanchard
agawamumc@gmail.com
agawamworship.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Communion on the first and third Sunday of the month. Coffee and fellowship hour immediately after worship. Handicap accessible at front entrance.
Worship At Country Estates Nursing Home: 2nd and 5th Thursdays each month at 11 a.m.
AUMC cooks and serves dinner for the Samaritan Innhomeless shelter on the second Saturday of the month.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD
580 Main St., Agawam
(413) 789-2930
www.bethany-ag.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Celebration of Praise: Sunday 6 p.m.
Wednesday Mid-Week Service (Family Night): 7 p.m.
Sunday Evening Contemporary Service: 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION
50 Maple St., Agawam
(413) 304-2313
churchofredemptionministries.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer Schedule
Sunday Service at 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH
370 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam
(413) 786-1681
www.jesussaves.7@comcast.com
Website: www.faithbible-church.org
Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer
Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
"An Open and Affirming Congregation."
21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
P.O. Box 264
(413) 786-5061
fhcuccoffice@verizon.net
Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
Church School 9 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Infant and child care provided.
Handicap accessible.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
760 Main St., Agawam
Agawambc@localnet.com
www.firstbaptistagawam.org

SUNDAY SERVICES
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children's Message until 10:45
Youth Study time (grades 6+) following sermon until 10:45
Coffee & Conversation following worship every Sunday

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
152 South Westfield St.
Feeding Hills
789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES
Men's & Women's Bible Study Groups and Children's Sunday School Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children's Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH
522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
Feeding Hills, MA
478-9484
David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH
1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
(413) 786-8200
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
Fr. Steven Amo


WEEKLY SERVICES
Lord's Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.
786-6133
saintdavids@comcast.net
www.stdavidsagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
823 Main St., Agawam
786-8105
info@stjohnvangelistchurch.org
www.stjohagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 4 p.m. & 6 p.m. (Labor Day to Memorial Day)
Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Weekdays - Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.
Thursday - Communion Service



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Finally back gliding on the lumber

A column devoted to cross-country skiing enthusiasts

NEW IPSWICH, N.H. - Since my first and only column of this winter appeared almost eight weeks ago, it has been a very frustrating time for us devoted cross-country skiers. And for the region's Nordic ski centers that rely on deep snow to make a living, it has been a near disaster financially.

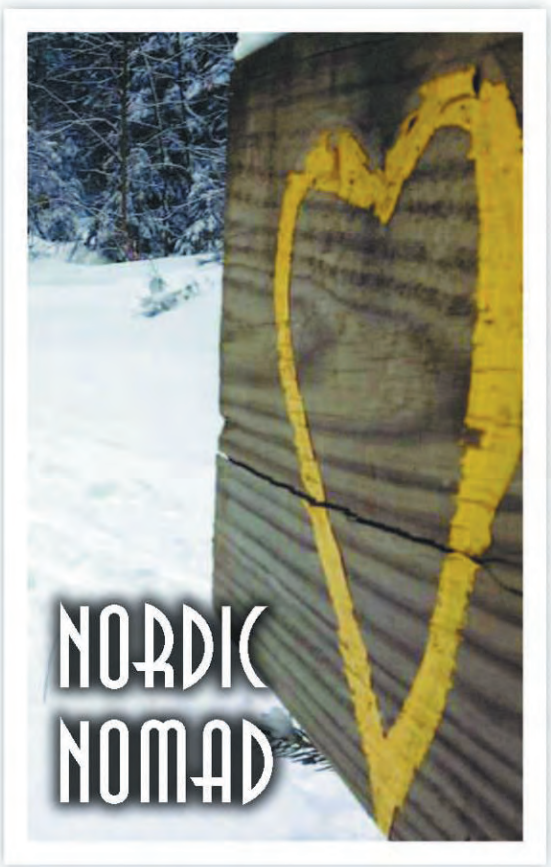
Despite all the cold and recent bountiful snows (thanks Mother Nature), January was almost a complete loss for us. None of the professionally groomed centers were open at all that entire month south of mid-state Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire.

Venting aside, February's first foot of snow combined with another powerful storm on Thursday puts all of us back in business. When you get deep snow, it can be tricky and quite difficult kicking your own trails on local conservation lands. Luckily, Nordic centers exist for this very reason. They groom their trails for you.

One such center that is my all-time favorite is called Windblown Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing Center based just over the state line 15 miles north of Fitchburg, Mass. in New Ipswich, N.H. (<http://windblownxc.com>). From Palmer, Mass., the drive would take you under two hours and they have a complete array of rental gear. Tip: You should always call ahead first to confirm that rental boot and ski sizes are available.

What I like most about Windblown is the Al Jenks family has owned it since 1963. His son Andy now runs the sprawling facility. Al originally wanted to open the land as an Alpine Ski area given a small mountain positioned in its very center, and did succeed at that vision for a few years. However, in 1970 he decided to convert the trails around the mountain slopes into Nordic trails when he saw other small ski hills going out of business because of insurance costs, snowmaking needs, customer desires, etc. In two years, he built eight miles of trails, an outhouse, a ski shop/garage, a warming hut, and opened for business in December 1972. The rest is history, as they say.

"The hardest part of the job for me is waking up at 3 a.m. to find the rain soaked snow firmly frozen and the realization



Turley Publications photos by Nordic Nomad



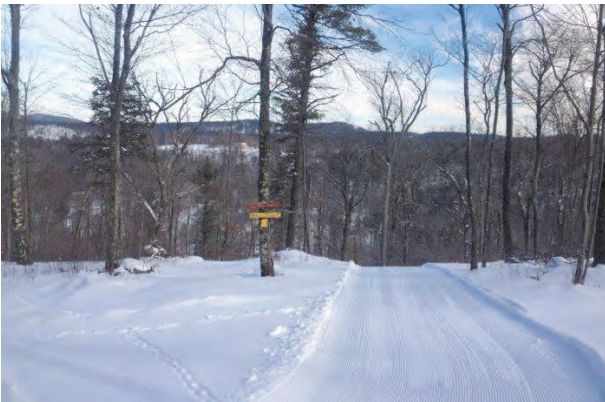
that it will take many hours of difficult grooming to make it skiable, the machinery will not start, and 400 skiers are expected by noon," Al writes on his web page. The Jenks family has endured tremendous snow years in the 1980s followed by several snowless years in the 1990s, and the completely unpredictable winters of the 21st century.

I have skied Windblown countless times over the past 20 years and find the ability to get lost on well-marked and groomed trails simply fantastic (see attached trail map). What I mean by that is Windblown is quite cavernous. The facility has a great inner green loop trail system for beginners, and more challenging outer loop blue system for intermediates to navigate. But if you want to climb up a mountain and slide down the other side, no problem. You can gain a total wilderness back-country experience fast here, and even continue along top elevation to the storied Wapack Trail system to neighboring mountain ranges if you wish. There are several huts and lean tubes here to sleep overnight in with advance reservations.

Windblown is ideal for skate skiers and often features high school races. It has also added a great deal of backwoods BXC and snowshoe trails in recent years. Trails prices are fair at \$15 bucks for the day and they have a large full kitchen, fireplace and woodstove enhanced lodge with bathrooms to restore your energy in. Bring a good book to read while resting.

If you can't get to Windblown this week or season, I am happy to report that all of the Pioneer Valley's Nordic centers are now open for business. Best place to go to check on conditions, rentals and hours are found here: <http://xcskimass.com>.

Happy trails.



Parent Information Night for upcoming kindergarteners

The Agawam Public Schools will host a Parent Information Night Thursday, March 13, at 6 p.m. at Benjamin J. Phelps School, 689 Main St. Parents of all children entering kindergarten in September are invited to attend.

The program is offered to answer questions parents might have about their child entering school in September. Children who will be 5 years old prior to Sept. 1 are eligible for kindergarten.

For more information, contact Christine Costello at the Early Childhood Center at 821-0597.

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SPORTS

Brownies grab two titles

Liebel, Basile crowned champions

By Gregory A. Scibelli
*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

SPRINGFIELD – Agawam and Minnechaug both crowned two individual wrestling champions last Saturday at the Western Massachusetts Division 1 Championships at Central High School in Springfield.

Host Central won as a team and also crowned eight individual champions.

Chicopee Comp had one individual champion. Agawam placed second as a team with 210 points. Minnechaug was fourth with 139 pounds. Chicopee High placed

fifth with 128.5 points, and Chicopee Comp finished with 103 points in sixth place. Ludlow was 10th with 76 points.

Agawam’s Brennen Liebel was a winner at 113 pounds. He defeated Andrew Sartan of Ludlow with a second round pinfall with 13 seconds remaining. In the semifinals, Liebel had an excellent match against Chicopee’s Demetrius Sturdivant. Liebel got the pinfall in the second period after scoring a first period takedown and then a nearfall. He got the pin shortly into the second period.

The Brownies’ other champion was Anthony Basile, who won his

Please see BROWNIES, page14



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Chicopee’s Demetrius Sturdivant feels out Agawam’s Brennen Liebel in a 113-pound semifinal.

Late rally lifts Brownies to tie

Agawam scores twice in final 4:00

By Gregory A. Scibelli
*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

AGAWAM – The Agawam hockey team struggled again in their second matchup of the year against pesky East Longmeadow last Saturday night at Olympia Ice Center.

The Brownies trailed 4-2, but came back in the final 4:00 to pick up a draw against the Spartans.

Trailing 4-2 with just minutes remaining, the Brownies called a timeout. They had been held scoreless since the first period and were looking to get going. Agawam was able to do that and John Cowell and Brian Scoville scored the tying goals with to help Agawam pick up the tie.

Agawam had a 2-0 lead early in the game before East Longmeadow charged back with a pair of goals in the second. The Spartans then scored again early in the third followed by a goal with about six minutes remaining.

Please see HOCKEY, page 14



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Eric Kierkla moves the puck down the ice.



Cam Rivest tries to deke around an East Longmeadow defender.

Dustin excels at Western Mass Swim Sectionals

By Nate Rosenthal
*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

SPRINGFIELD – The Art Linkletter Natatorium at Springfield College once again played host to the Western Massachusetts swimming sectionals. Megan Dustin led the Brownies with two third-place finishes in her individual events.

The meet kicked off on Sunday morning, Feb. 9, with the girls’ session. Agawam had seven swimmers in the meet and as a team they scored 61.5 points and to finish 14th in the field. The girls meet was won by Northampton. The Blue Devils scored 312, beating second place Westfield at 251.5. They led from start to finish and after they beat Westfield in the 200-yard medley relay, the Blue Devils continuously gained on the Bombers. Third was Longmeadow with 227 and they were followed by Belchertown, 220 and Hoosac Valley, 188.5, the fourth and fifth-place teams.

Dustin was the top finisher for the Brownies with a pair of thirds. She swam a 1:58.41 in the 200-yard freestyle to get third by a quarter of a second. Her 5:13.44 in the 500-yard freestyle was good for another third and she missed second by just three quarters of a second. Mackenzie Gendron picked up points with a sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke, 1:13.56, and tenth in the 200-yard individual medley, 2:25.88. Monique Groux was 10th in the diving with a score of 310.80 and Mary, D’Angelo was 14th in the 500 free in 5:58.33.

Other swims for the Agawam girls were: Dustin (200-yard freestyle relay); Alyssa Gravel (200-yard medley relay, 200-yard freestyle relay); D’Angelo (100-yard

butterfly, 200-yard medley relay); Amberlie Brenes (200-yard medley relay, 200-yard freestyle relay); Victoria Sutherland (200-yard medley relay, 200-yard freestyle relay).

There were three double winners for the girls. Erin Voss of Northampton broke the 100-yard backstroke record with a time of 56.88 beating Colleen Humel of Chicopee, who was nearly 3 seconds behind. In her first individual event, Voss was 5 seconds faster than Hope Walsh in the 200-yard freestyle. She hit the wall in 1:51.16. Voss also got the Blue Devils off to a good start doing the butterfly leg in the winning 200-yard medley relay. The Blue Devils beat Westfield in that event 1:53.69 to 1:53.89. Jerrica Li of Longmeadow won the 200-yard Individual Medley by more than 11 seconds ahead of Maela Witcomb of Northampton. She beat Cori Ghidotti of Hoosac Valley, 1:06.07 to 1:08.85 in the 100-yard breaststroke. Li also helped her Lancers to two relay wins. They were 1:41.11 in the 200-yard freestyle ahead of Westfield and then 3:44.03 in the 400-yard freestyle when they beat Northampton. The third double winner was Jessica Harper of Easthampton. She won the 50-yard freestyle in 24.23, beating Maria Caputo of Longmeadow. The she edged Lauren Quinn of Minnechaug in the 100-yard butterfly, 57.87 to 58.02. Northampton picked up a third individual championship in the diving competition as Katie Helly scored 426.95 to outpoint Allison Echeverria of Longmeadow who had a 414.75. Kristyn Popowski of Holyoke Catholic beat Walsh in the 500-yard freestyle. She had a time of 5:4.32 more than 8 seconds faster than

Please see SWIM, page 15

Agawam pins down Chicopee Comp

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam wrestling team finished up their regular season with a big win against visiting Chicopee Comp, 63-12, last Wednesday night.

The Brownies celebrated Senior Night against the Colts, honoring outgoing seniors Brennen Liebel, Chris Ortega, Anthony Caracciolo, Jon Sadowski, and Vinny Derosé.

All five picked up victories in the meet with Sadowski’s win coming by forfeit.

Agawam did dominate Comp on the scoreboard, but Brownie grapplers had to work hard to get their wins. Comp sports a young, but very hungry wrestling program.

Ortega received the honor of starting the night, getting a second period pin against Taran Richter. Ortega picked up a first period takedown and a nearfall. At the beginning of the second period, Ortega locked up Richter’s arm. Richter tried to stand up, but Ortega used a leg trip to knock him back to the mat. The impact allowed Ortega to pick up the pin easily.

At 170 pounds, Derosé picked up a second period pinfall. He had an 11-4 lead after two periods, struggling to pin his opponent to the mat. Finally, he used a half-nelson and a lateral press to pick up the pinfall.

Comp picked up a win in the 195-pound match as Carlos Negron defeated Nick Blais in a competitive match by an 8-5 decision.

Negron had a 7-1 lead before Blais es-

caped to make it 7-2. In the down position in the second period, Blais picked up a reverse. He would get as close as 7-5, but could not score from there and Negron would pick up the victory.

Comp’s Alex Kravchenko won a 7-5 decision over Jim Karl-Morin.

Nick Hope and Liebel got Agawam back in the win column.

Hope’s match was stopped twice as he fell on Comp’s Joel Rodriguez, appearing to injury his arm or shoulder. Rodriguez decided to continue the match, and went into the second period trailing Hope 9-2.

Both competitors started upright in the second period, and Hope scored another takedown, aggravating the injury. The trainer said Rodriguez could not continue and the match was ended with Hope declared the winner. Fortunately, Rodriguez was able to come back last Saturday and compete at Western Mass, picking up a 2-2 record at the meet.

Liebel scored a 10-2 major decision over Joseph Reyes, and later Daigan Bishop, Caracciolo, and Anthony Basile all picked up pins for the Brownies.

David Rodriguez ended the evening at 152 pounds by winning a technical fall thanks to four nearfalls in his match against Sebastian Rodriguez.

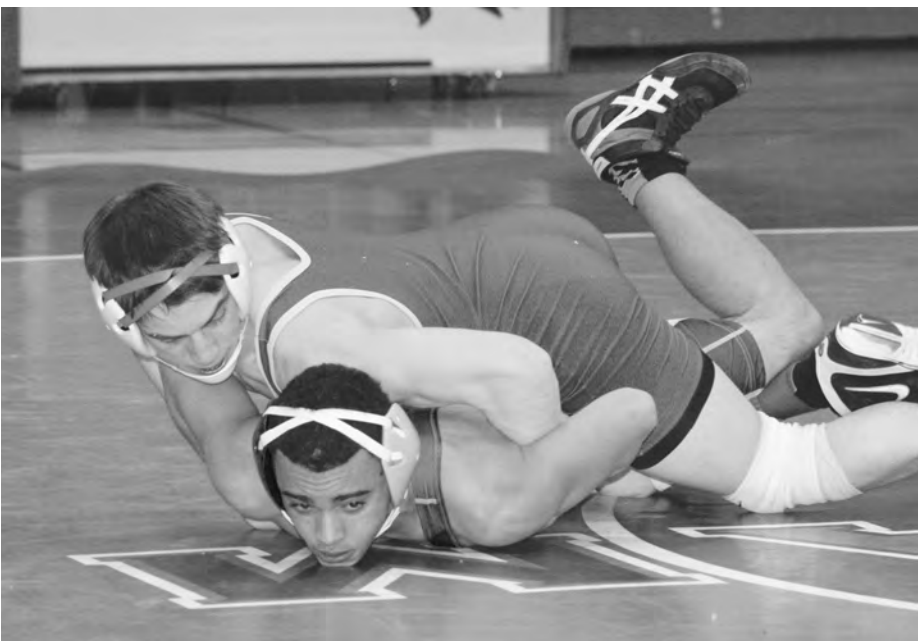
Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



Turley Publications photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Agawam’s Chris Ortega tries to secure the pin against Comp’s Taran Richter.



Vinny Derosé tries to work his way out of trouble. He would get the pinfall against Jhayden Sheftall.



Brennen Liebel holds the advantage over Joseph Reyes at 113 pounds.

COLLEGE NOTES

Weiner named to Marist College swimming, diving team

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. - Lauren Weiner, of Feeding Hills, a senior at Marist College, has been named a member of the swimming and diving team for the 2013 -2014 season. Weiner competes in diving on the team.

Marist is an independent comprehensive liberal arts college with an enrollment of 4,700 full-time undergraduate students. Founded in 1929, the college offers 44 major fields of undergraduate study and 12 graduate degree programs. Marist is included in the Princeton Review’s 2013 guide to the top colleges and universities in the U.S., The Best 377 Colleges.

Rackliffe grabs third straight MAS-CAC Rookie of the Week honor

FRAMINGHAM - Framingham State freshman forward and Feeding Hills resident Alycia Rackliffe has been named the

Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Women’s Basketball Rookie of the Week for the week ending Feb. 16.

Rackliffe earns her third straight and fourth overall Rookie of the Week honors this season after averaging 16.5 points, seven rebound and three blocks while shooting 50 percent from the floor (14-of-28) in 2-0 week for the Rams. She recorded 21 points, seven rebounds and four blocks in a 68-48 victory over MCLA and closed the week with 12 points, seven rebounds and two blocks in a come from behind victory over Salem State.

Ritter helps out Wentworth

BOSTON - Wentworth men’s volleyball freshman and Feeding Hills resident Colin Ritter recorded 46 assists to go along with 10 digs and six blocks. As a team the Leopards had 17 blocks.

We’re apples to oranges



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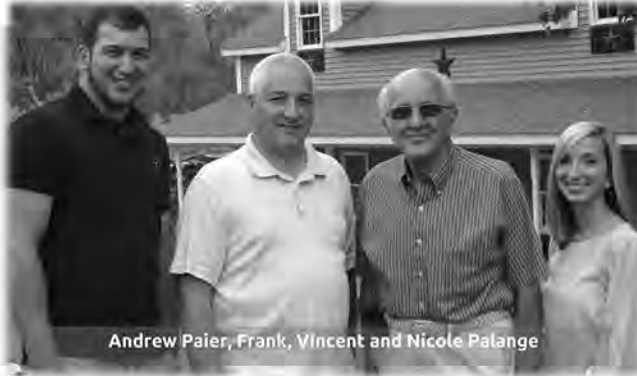


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BROWNIES, from page 12



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam's Brennen Liebel goes after the pinfall against Chicopee's Demetrius Sturdivant in a 113 pound match.

first Western Mass. championship when he was winner at 145 pounds.

Basile pinned Xavier Lopez from Chicopee High in the third period.

Minnechaug's champions were brothers Ryan and Anthony Monteiro. Ryan Monteiro won by technical fall to capture the 120-pound crown over Chicopee's Jeffrey Seibold. Anthony Monteiro had a second round pin for a championship at 126 pounds.

Comp's Jason Vargas won the 132 pound weight class with a 9-2 decision over Kyle Kreveski from Putnam.

Other finalists included Minnechaug's Riley Jacobson, who lost an 8-2 decision in the 106-pound final. Agawam's Anthony Caracciolo was the runner up at 138 pounds, losing a 12-6 decision against Central's Eric Rodriguez.

Agawam's Chris Ortega was defeated in the 160 pound final. Ludlow's Brian Cormier lost in the 170 pound final. Comp's Alex Kravchenko lost a close match 6-5 against Central's Matt Paris in the 195-pound final, and Agawam's Jim Karl-Morin lost 3-1 in overtime in the 220-pound final.

Wrestlers that placed in the top six will qualify for the state tournament this weekend.

Other qualifiers for Agawam are Jon Sadowski (third place, 132 pounds), Fred Karl-

Morin (third place, 182 pounds), Nick Blais (third place, 195 pounds), Nick Hope (third place, 285 pounds), and David Rodriguez (sixth place, 152 pounds).

Minnechaug qualifiers are Austin Kirby (third place, 145 pounds), Benton Whitey (fourth place, 170 pounds), Mark Kukula (fourth place, 285 pounds), Lucas Gobel (fifth place, 138 pounds), and Steve Kirby (sixth place, 132 pounds).

Qualifying for states for Chicopee are Josh McMullen (third place, 106 pounds), Tyler Beach (third place, 160 pounds), Demetrius Sturdivant (fourth place, 113 pounds), Anthony Flores (fourth place, 132 pounds), R.J. Orozco (fifth place, 152 pounds), and Sunny Gonzalez (sixth place, 195 pounds).

For Comp, Carlos Negron (third place, 220 pounds), Taran Richter (fifth place, 160 pounds), Ivan Diaz (sixth place, 106 pounds), Joey Reyes (sixth place, 113 pounds), and Jhayden Sheftall (sixth place, 170 pounds) will all go to the state meet.

And for Ludlow, Dominic Coelho (sixth place, 120 pounds), and Nick Godbout (sixth place, 145 pounds) qualified for the state meet.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

HOCKEY, from page 12

Chris Walles stopped 20 shots to get a tie while East Longmeadow's Matt Gasparini stopped 17 shots.

In the beginning of the game, it was a tale of two periods with the Brownies dominating the first period and the Spartans dominating the second.

Agawam would outshoot East Longmeadow 15-5 in the first period.

They got on the board with 5:39 left in the first period on a surprising play. Agawam was on the penalty kill after suffering their third penalty of the game in 10 minutes. Cam Rivest was able to intercept the puck and moved up the left side. He was able to maneuver around three of East Longmeadow's players to get a clear shot on goal.

The shot went off the goalie's pads and to the right side. Rivest collected his rebound and passed back to an oncoming Alex Abilantis, who sent the puck into the goal with a low wrist shot to make it 1-0, Agawam.

Just a few minutes later, Agawam was attacking the goal again when they put three successive shots on goal using backhands. The third was a short backhand from Eric



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibell

Action from Agawam and East Longmeadow hockey last Saturday at Olympia Ice Center. Agawam scored two at the end to pick up a 4-4 tie.

Relics turn 20

LUDLOW - The Western Mass Relics men's softball league celebrates its 20th year in 2014.

In 1994, a small group of former Springfield-area players organized the Relics League, spearheaded by Dan Dulchinos, Lou Massoia and Lou Bourbeau. Expanded from its infancy of two teams to its current 12, more than 200 players participate in two divisions. Seven teams make up the Silver (50 to 65 years of age), and five clubs play in the Gold (over 65).

The purpose of the Relics organization is to provide an opportunity for senior men (50 years plus), regardless of ability, experience, physical challenges or limitations to play organized softball in a recreational program that promotes competition, exercise, teamwork and friendship.

A draft is held to ensure that the teams are balanced. Teams play on weeknights. The Gold Division plays at 4:30 p.m. with the Silver Division playing at 6 p.m. Games are played primarily at the Ludlow Fish & Game in Ludlow. Teams usually play 2-3 games per week.

There is an opportunity for the more skilled and competitive players to participate on travel teams that play in tournaments throughout the United States.

The Annual League Meeting will be held at Tony and Penny's in Ludlow on Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. Interested players can also go to www.wmassrelics.com, click on Registration, and follow directions. Free registration may be obtained by securing Advertising for the website.

POST, from page 1

from 100 made free throws for the season. The same was true last season and his sophomore year.

Desrosiers only scored in single digits during his freshman year when he was still learning his craft. The 3-pointer, however, has never gone away.

He sports a line of 513 field goals and 189 3-pointers. He is currently at 1,554 points for his career with one regular season game remaining and at least one playoff game Agawam will participate in.

One of Desrosiers' biggest strengths has been versatility. He has shown the ability to drive the basket, and shoot from just about anywhere on the court, including three-point range. Against Minnechaug last Friday night, he broke his personal best with eight

treys. He had seven treys on four other occasions this year.

Coach Dave Federico says Desrosiers has been an excellent player and team leader for the Brownies. With Agawam heading to the tournament this year, it will mark the third trip for Desrosiers.

He says watching Desrosiers score his 1,500th point was a special moment.

"It's a great personal achievement for Tyler," said Federico. "This is the second year that he has lead all Division 1 Western Mass. in scoring, which is an unbelievable accomplishment. In terms of what he means to the team, I think his numbers speak for themselves, 1,500-plus points, wins, and playoff appearances in three of four seasons. He is not only a great player, but a better teammate and leader."

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SPORTS CALENDAR

Sacred Heart signups for softball

AGAWAM - Sacred Heart Athletic Association offers softball leagues that can accommodate girls from grades 1-8.

The cost for instructional softball (grades 1-2) is \$75 and NEYSA (grades 3-8) will be \$100.

All registrations will be held at the Sacred Heart Religious Education Center at 1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, on the following days: Saturday, Feb. 22 and Saturday, March 1 from 1 to 3 p.m.

We also provide the opportunity to register through the mail. Please visit our website, download the registration form and mail it directly to us! Deadline for mail in registrations is March 5.

In-Town Soccer registration open until March 2

AGAWAM - Agawam Soccer Association is now accepting registration for the Spring 2014 In-Town Soccer season. Registrations will only be accepted online at www.agawamsoccer.org. Games will begin in April and end in June. All games will be played on the weekends.

Anyone that played in the fall of 2013 already has a username and password. Those that did not play in the fall of 2013 will need to click signup to create a username and password.

Cost for pre-K, age 3, is \$80 (child must be at least 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2013); pre-K, age 4, \$80 (child must be at least 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2013); kindergarten \$80 (child must be entering kindergarten in the fall of 2013); 1st grade thru 8th grade, \$90.

The registration period will close Sunday, March 2.

Fishing swap meet set for March 9

AGAWAM - A fishing swam meet will be held on Sunday, March 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St.

Buy, sell and trade new and used fishing and hunting gear (no guns).

The cost is a \$2 donation at the door. Kids 12 and under are free. No cost to park.

There will be raffle prizes.

Polish Club food concessions will be open with breakfast/lunch food and drinks.

Table space and boat spaces still available. If you would like to sell your items or boat, please call Dave Dussault at 413-427-0846.

For more information, go to getyourlinewet.com.

Mawaga Sporting Club 25th Lunker Trout Derby

AGAWAM - The Mawaga Sporting Club will host its 25th Lunker Trout Derby on Sunday, April 27, 377 Adams St.

This event is a great way to get outside for young and old alike. The club does a great job hosting this event and provides a well stocked pond, bait, breakfast, lunch, cash, door and raffle prizes.

Fishing is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with awards and raffles after 1 p.m. No license needed.

Ticket donation of \$15 per angler. Non angler guests are free.

Largest trout prize is \$500. Second place is \$100. There will also be a random size award of \$100. Caught tagged fish prize is also \$100.

For more info contact Dave Dussault or call the info line at 413-262-7401 and 413-265-0851.

Baseball players wanted

A local baseball team is looking for 9, 10, and 11-year-olds looking to play in some of the best baseball in Western Massachusetts.

The team plays on weekends only.

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SWIM, from page 12

Walsh. And there was Veroneau's win in the 100-yard freestyle.

The boys got underway in mid afternoon. Belchertown had eight swimmers compete and between them they scored 93 points for 10th place overall. Minnechaug was the winner with 343, making it seven years in a row that they have won Western Mass. Second and third went to Amherst, 267 and Westfield, 260. Longmeadow, with 235 was fourth and East Longmeadow at 173.5 placed fifth. Minnechaug was in charge for most of the meet on their way to the championship. They were in first place through the second, third and fourth events, turning it over to Westfield for the next three. The Falcons regained their lead after the 500 and built it from there.

Jared Lubarsky and Adam Ardolino each had a second. Lubarsky was the runner up in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:49.86, while Ardolino scored 269.90 in the diving competition. Lubarsky also swam to a fifth place in the 100-yard butterfly in 50.94. He was the anchor in both of his relays. His 200-yard freestyle relay with David Welch, Justin Comtois and Scott Laviano was eighth in 1:38.51, while it was 16th with Victor Shapovalov, Comtois and Dominic Kosior in the 400-yard freestyle relay that went 4:02.06. Gregory McLaughlin was ninth in the diving with a score of 269.65, while Laviano was 11th in the butterfly in 1:00.82. Shapovalov had an 11th in the 200-yard individual medley, 2:19.70 and a 13th in the 100-yard backstroke, 1:03.12. The 200-yard medley relay of Shapovalov, Welch, Laviano and Comtois was eighth with a time of 1:53.33. Those were the point scorers for the Brownies.

Other swims for the Agawam boys were: Welch (200-yard individual medley, 100-yard breaststroke); Laviano (50-yard freestyle); Comtois (50-yard freestyle; Kosior (100-yard breaststroke).

As with the girls, there were three double winners for the boys. From the team champion, it was Tommy Normoyle, who edged

Tim Kwarcinski of Westfield in the 200-yard Individual Medley. He had a time of 1:58.95 and beat Kwarcinski in the by .30 seconds. A year ago, the margin in this event was .18 in Normoyle's favor. In the 100 breaststroke, Normoyle was nearly three seconds faster than Charlie Blazy of Longmeadow with a time of 59.21. Amherst, the runner-up had double winners in Ciaran Dillon-Davidson and Alan Tang. Dillon Davidson won the 200-yard freestyle in 1:47.17 over Jared Lubarsky of Agawam. He was second a year ago. Then he repeated his win in the 500-yard freestyle going 4:46.35 to beat Aidan Winn of Northampton. Tang topped the field in the 100-yard freestyle, beating Justin Liu of Longmeadow, 49.33 to 49.37; later he beat John Dolan 55.65 to 56.25 in the 100-yard backstroke. Amherst had a fifth champion in Marc Klepacki who won a close battle in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 53.29 over Jimmie Stinehart of Westfield, who came in at 53.95. A year ago, Tang and Klepacki were tied for second in the butterfly. Stinehart made it back to back in the 50 free with a 22.08 to 22.17 win over George Sommerville of Taconic. Connor Pennington of Monson won the diving with a score of 445.65 beating Adam Ardolino of Agawam by nearly 100 points. Pennington was second last year. Westfield started the meet with a win in the 200-yard medley relay, beating Amherst by .26 seconds. They finished with a time of 1:39.65. They ended the meet with another win over Amherst in the 400-yard freestyle relay. They came in at 3:19.76. The 200-yard freestyle relay was won by Longmeadow in 1:30.32 almost three seconds ahead of Minnechaug.

The next competition is the State Championship to be held on February 15th and 16th at the MIT Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center.

Nate Rosenthal is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

Brownies put on show against Lancers

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications

Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - The Agawam boys basketball team will enter the tournament with at least 12 wins as they were set to play their final regular season game of the season against Longmeadow on Monday night.

The Brownies will be one of few teams that will be able to enjoy a few nice days off before starting the rigorous preparation for the Western Massachusetts Division 1 Tournament.

Agawam rode another huge performance from Tyler Desrosiers as they defeated Minnechaug last Friday night 72-59 at Clifford P. Kibbe Gymnasium at Agawam.

Agawam led throughout most of the game, though the Falcons continued to stay close throughout. The Brownies were only up by five heading into the final quarter before shutting the door on a comeback by the Falcons.

Desrosiers was completely unstoppable again for the Brownies with 37 points. Desrosiers has shown great versatility in shooting for the Brownies, but excelled from beyond the arc with eight 3-pointers for the Brownies.

Talon Brown also contributed from beyond the arc with three treys for nine points.

T.J. Lockwood also had a great game with 10 points, and Joe Moccio added six points.

Minnechaug got three double-digit performances from Joshua Henry with 15 points, Phil Pickering with 13 points, and

Kaleb Smith with 10. The Falcons struggled from three-point range with just one shot made. The Falcons also got few chances on the free throw line.

The two teams made up a snowout from a major nor'easter last Thursday night. School was cancelled Friday, but Agawam received the okay from Superintendent Williams Sappelli to play Friday night with the weather and roads clean by noon Friday. Athletics Director David Stratton said it was important to get games in with days running out in the regular season. Several other teams were scheduled for two or three games this week due to weather postponements.

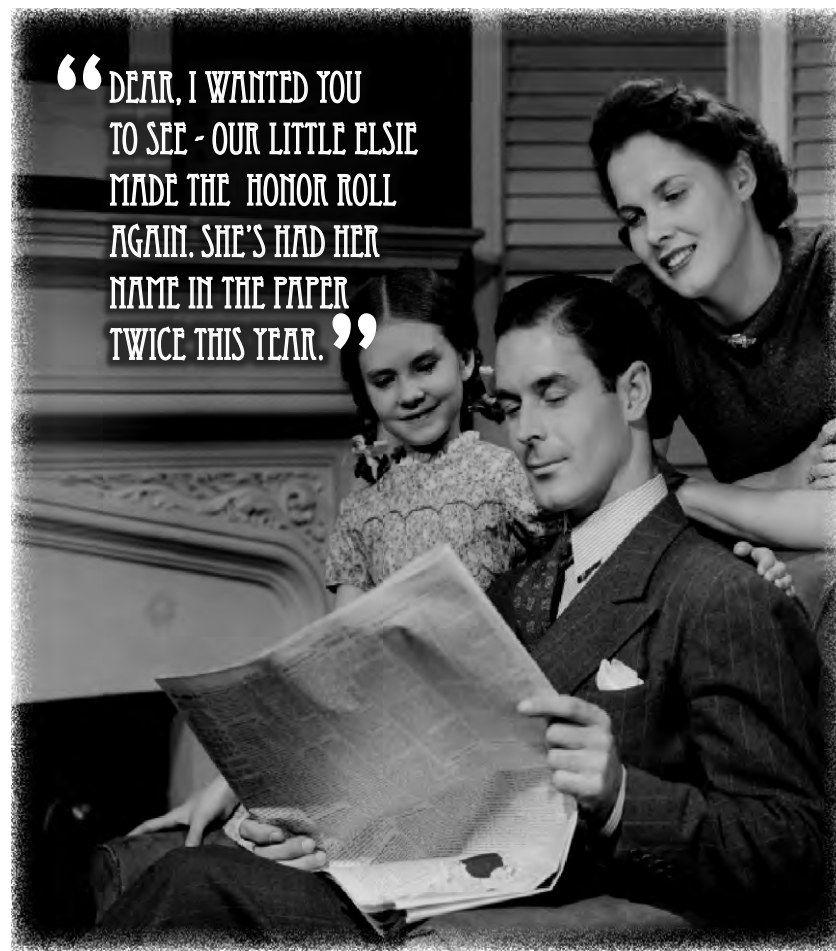
Today is the last day teams can play games into their regular season records that are eligible for their seedings for the tournament.

Agawam entered Monday's game against Longmeadow with a 12-7 record. They will be looking to get past the first round of the tournament this year. Agawam was defeated in the first round last year against Northampton.

The Brownies will have the tall task of facing some excellent teams in Western Mass. including Longmeadow, Sabab, Holyoke, Central, and Sci-Tech, which have all qualified for the tournament.

The seedings for the tournament are expected to be announced on Saturday afternoon. Go to the Turley Sports Facebook page to find out where the Agawam boys are seeded in the tournament.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



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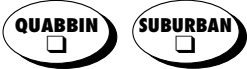
THE TOWN OF Hampden Parks & Recreation Commission is now accepting resumés for the position of Director for our summer program. Bachelors in camp administration, education or related degree preferred. Current CPR and first aid certifications required. At least one season of camp administrative experience (i.e., unit leader, head counselor) is required, with the ability to supervise staff and campers, meet and interact with parents/guardians and handle all inquiries/concerns. Ability to plan, organize, and carry out daily and special programs for children ages 4 to 12 years old. If interested, please send resumé to Hampden Parks & Recreation Commission, 625 Main St, Hampden, MA 01036 or email in .doc or .pdf format to Parks@Hampden.org

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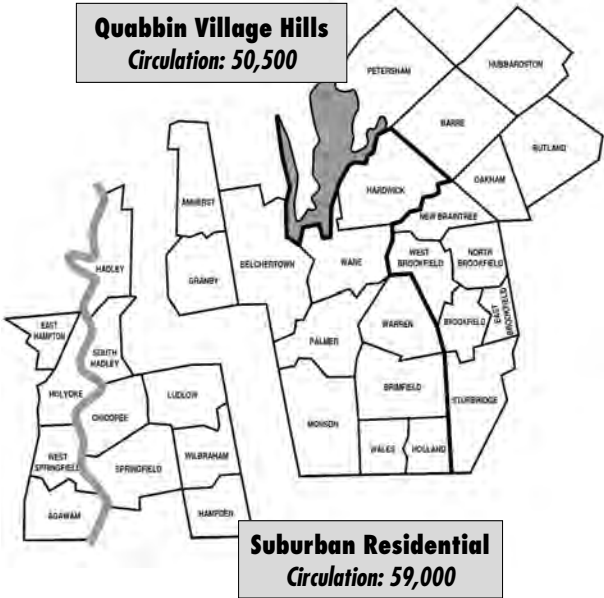
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1998 DODGE RAM 1500 Sport 4x4 pickup. Reg. cab, short bed. Good condition. Must see. \$4,200. Serious inquiries only (413)533-9471.

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Saturday, Feb. 22

MATTHEW CHRISTIAN, A MEMBER OF SCOUT TROOP 185 IN AGAWAM, is collecting non-perishable food items as well as toiletries Saturdays during February as part of his Eagle Project and is looking for community support. Donations may be dropped off at the First Baptist Church on the corner of Main and Elm streets in Agawam each Saturday this month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON GUIDED FREE FAMILY PROGRAM will take place Saturday, Feb. 22, from 1:30-3 p.m. at Mt. Tom State Reservation. Indoor activities and outdoor exploration. Meet inside the Bray Lake Warming Hut, 125 Reservation Road. Dress in warm layers with sturdy shoes. Inclement weather or severe cold cancels. Call (413) 584-6788 after 11 a.m. to check.

THE HOLYOKE MERRY-GO-ROUND is open and ready for families to stop in

and beat the winter blues. It is currently open Saturdays and Sundays from noon-4 p.m. with rides only \$2 each. Call (413) 538-9838 or visit www.holyokemerrygoround.org for more information.

Sunday, Feb. 23

LOCAL AUTHOR C.L. BLACK will read from her book, "Whispers From the Beyond" from 1-2:30 p.m. at the St. George Cathedral Greek Cultural Center in Springfield. The event will include light refreshments. Plan to wear red, and your \$10 donation at the door will go to the American Heart Association for the annual Go Red campaign against women's heart disease. Books will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

ADULT DROP-IN YOGA is offered at the Agawam Public Library at 7 p.m. It is a beginner's class and open to adults 18 and over. Bring a yoga mat or blanket. No registration needed.

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie ("Move Over, Darling") at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

Thursday, Feb. 27

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through

age 5 with a parent or caregiver, and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

THE TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER OF WESTERN MASS. will hold a "Turkish Coffee Night" at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Friday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. There will be a short video presentation on Turkey followed by a Turkish dance demonstration, snacks and music. The public is invited. The event is free and registration is not necessary.

A CARD & COLLECTIBLE SHOW will be held Sunday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is \$1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap-accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will hold a blood drive Wednesday, March 5, from 2-7 p.m. at The Ice Cream Shop, 459 Springfield St., Agawam. To make an appointment to donate blood, call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

THE 10TH SEASON OF THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S popular Applause Series continues March 7 with "The Life, Times, and Music of Louie Armstrong" at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. Members of Dixieland Stomp are David Neill, Jason Bouchard, David Bilodeau, Ben Falkoff, Ed Mari, and Gene

Bartley. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.agawamcc.org.

SHAKESPEARE & CO., OUT OF LENOX returns to Agawam High School once again, courtesy of the Agawam Cultural Council, to perform an edited version of "Romeo and Juliet," Tuesday, March 11, at 10 a.m., with doors open to the public at 9:30 a.m. For reservations, which are required, or more information, contact Andrea LaPlace, chairperson of the "Agawam Cultural Council in the Schools" program, at (413) 786-6753 or andrealaplace@comcast.net. It is free and open to the public.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper Wednesday, March 12, at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT to be held March 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature guest artists David McFerrin on baritone and Clifton J. Noble, Jr., on piano. Free refreshments provided. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Western Mass Pioneers 2014 tryouts a success

LUDLOW – Snow may cover Lusitano Stadium now, but the Pioneers were lucky enough to sneak in tryouts on the turf before the storm hit New England. Initial tryouts are nearly complete, and the response has been better than expected.

"The weather cooperated with us at the beginning of the month so we were able to take advantage and have a session at Lusitano Stadium," said Pioneers general manager Greg Kolodziej. "Indoor training does not do the players justice as they do not have the ability to open up the field and use space the outdoor surface offers."

Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari was happy with the turnout and abilities of the players. Coach and staff were able to see over 35 players during the course of the two sessions. Players traveled from all over New England to show off their abilities. "We are fortunate that former players of the Pioneers are either assistant or head coaches of soccer teams throughout New England. Their ability to recommend quality players from their programs to potentially play for the Pioneers is exciting. They really care about the success of the Pioneers," said head coach Federico Molinari. "We are looking for those additional players who can put us in the playoffs. Our team continues to finish a few points out of the playoffs each year."

The Pioneers finished tied for third in 2013 with the Vermont Voltage, coming up four points shy to overtake Portland for the playoff berth.

The WM Pioneers may add additional tryout dates in March or April for those who did not get a chance to participate this time around. Season tickets along with group tickets options are now available for purchase. Please continue to view the Pioneers website wmpioneers.com for more information.



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com
Pioneers player Rohan Royce (14) makes a run up the field.

The Western New England Spring Bridal Show

Sunday, March 2, 2014 • 11am - 4 pm
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WEDDING AND EVENT PLANNER

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Silverscape Designs – was founded by Denis Perlman over 30 years ago and is noted for its commitment to showcasing the work of the finest in American handcrafted jewelry & gifts. Silverscape also specializes in custom designs for that perfect piece of jewelry. Silverscape Designs is located at One King Street in Northampton, MA. www.silverscapedesigns.com.

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